

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add claim 14 as follows:

1. (Original) An endoscope apparatus comprising:  
a flexible slender insertion section inserted into a to-be-inspected space, the insertion section having a slender flexible tube portion, a distal portion coupled to a distal end of the flexible tube portion, a bendable portion coupled to the distal portion and to be bent, and a proximal portion coupled to a proximal end of the flexible tube portion; and  
an operation section coupled to a proximal end of the insertion section, the operation section having a grip portion gripped by an operator, and a bending operation portion which bends the bendable portion,  
wherein:  
the insertion section has a treatment instrument channel, the distal portion of the insertion section having a distal open end of the treatment instrument channel, and the proximal portion of the insertion section having a proximal open end of the treatment instrument channel; and  
the proximal open end of the treatment instrument channel is located on the grip portion.
2. (Original) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the grip portion has a display portion which displays an observation image.
3. (Original) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the display portion includes a display panel and a frame supporting the display panel, and the proximal open end of the treatment instrument channel is provided on the frame.

4. (Original) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the proximal open end of the treatment instrument channel is located on a rear surface of the grip portion.

5. (Original) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the grip portion has a grip which can be gripped by one hand of the operator.

6. (Original) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the grip portion has an upper portion provided with a display portion which displays an observation image, the proximal open end of the treatment instrument channel is located below the display portion.

7. (Original) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the grip portion has a casing and a forceps-port constructing member, the forceps-port constructing member being coupled to the proximal open end.

8. (Original) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the forceps-port constructing member is located at a position at which the forceps-port constructing member does not interfere with an operation of the bending operation portion.

9. (Original) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the forceps-port constructing member is located near the display portion and the bending operating portion.

10. (Original) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the frame of the display portion has a side provided with a forceps port.

11.(Original) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the grip portion has a downwardly opening forceps port formed in a lower end of the casing.

12.(Original) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the grip portion is detachable from the display portion.

13.(Original) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a universal cord section and a case which can house the insertion section, the universal cord section and the operation section in a wound state.

14.(New) An endoscope apparatus comprising:  
an insertion section inserted into a to-be-inspected space, the insertion section comprising:  
a flexible slender tube portion,  
a distal portion coupled to a distal end of the flexible slender tube portion,  
a bendable portion coupled to the distal portion,  
a proximal portion coupled to a proximal end of the slender flexible tube portion,  
treatment instrument channel, the distal portion of the insertion section having a distal open end of the treatment instrument channel, and the proximal portion of the insertion section having a proximal open end of the treatment instrument channel; and  
an operation section coupled to a proximal end of the insertion section, the operation section comprising:  
a bending operation portion which bends the bendable portion,  
a display portion that displays an observation image, and

a grip portion that can be gripped by one hand of the operator, the grip portion having a casing and a forceps-port constructing member, the forceps-port constructing member being coupled to the proximal open end, wherein the proximal open end of the treatment instrument channel is located on the grip portion and wherein the forceps-port constructing member is located near the display portion and the bending operating portion.